UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

Distr.
RESTRICTED*

DP/GC/MAR/R.3/RECOMMENDATION
23 March 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth session
June 1981
Agenda item 6

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS

Note by the Administrator

Programme period	Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986
1982-1986	
Actual amount programmed:	$7 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The commencement of the programming exercise was marked by the preliminary consultations between Government and the resident representative in March 1980 and by the resident representative's note, after the agreement reached with the Government of Mauritius and UNDP Office in Mauritius on the collaboration of the United Nations system in the preparation of this country programme. The resident representative's note included an assessment of past UNDP activities in Mauritius.

EMBARGO

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

* This document will be derestricted upon approval of the Country Programme. See DP/526 which will be issued in June 1981.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
JUN 9 1981
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

2. The work plan with the note were distributed to the organizations of the United Nations system and constituted the basis for further discussions which were held in May 1980, when UN/DTCD was able to send one of its interregional advisers to participate in the preparation of the country programme of the Government. Some specialized agencies sent staff members to be associated with this preparation and those agencies that were unable to send missions submitted their comments in writing.

3. These and other proposals identified independently by the ministries themselves were later submitted for consideration and screening to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, which then decided on a final list of requirements for discussions with the resident representative.

4. Initial drafting of the country programme document took place in early August 1980. This process included various consultations on programme content between the Government and the UNDP resident representative.

5. The first draft of the country programme was sent to UNDP headquarters and to all specialized agencies for comments after agreement on its content was reached.

6. After considering the comments of the United Nations agencies, the Government of Mauritius approved the final draft of this country programme.

II. Relationship between the country programme and the national development objectives

7. The present country programme covers the five years 1982-1986 of the third UNDP programming cycle. Under normal circumstances, this duration would have largely coincided with the third five-year development plan, 1980-1985. In view of the economic situation prevailing in the wake of the devaluation of the rupee in October 1979, the Government has turned to a two-year interim plan for the period 1980-1982 with a view to bringing the economy back to normal.

8. The difference in the time-frames of the UNDP cycle and of the national development plan does not, however, affect the content and scope of the programme. There has been, since independence, a great continuity in the development objectives pursued by the country, which can be summarized as follows:

(a) Full employment;

(b) Diversification of the economy.

These long-term objectives continue to be the goals of all intermediate planning.

9. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, fully aware of assistance received and/or anticipated from external sources, was able to determine with great accuracy what type of assistance was required from UNDP in the various sectors.

10. While the bulk of assistance required from UNDP is concentrated (80 per cent of programmed resources) in agriculture, health, education, transport and communications, development planning and administration, new small-scale activities are also promoted in several other areas such as science and technology, employment, human settlements, international trade and development, finance, industry and national resources. The relevance of projects to present needs is reflected by the very large portion of resources (89 per cent) devoted to new projects. It is further illustrated by the type of assistance expected from UNDP. Since Mauritius has quite a large number of well-trained cadres, what is in most cases needed is short-term, high-level expertise and facilities for action (equipment) and for further training of the available cadres.

III. Content and phasing of the country programme

11. Twenty-nine per cent of the programmed resources are earmarked for agriculture and its diversification, a major concern to the Government; 20 per cent to health, which so far had received little assistance from UNDP; 16 per cent to education, one of the major preoccupations of the Government; 9 per cent to transport and communications, an important sector for an island country; 7 per cent to development planning and administration, and the rest, 20 per cent, to the various fields of industry, natural resources, international trade, science and technology, social conditions, employment and human settlements.

Table 1

Sectoral breakdown of programmed resources

Sector	Ongoing projects		Identified new projects		Total	
	Value ($'000)	per cent	Value ($'000)	per cent	Value ($'000)	per cent
General development issues	130	21	250	5	380	7
Natural resources	65	11	70	1	135	2.5
Agriculture	-		1 620	32	1 620	29
Industry	55	9	215	4	270	5
Transport and communications	295	48	225	5	520	9
International trade	-		180	4	180	3
Human settlements	-		130	3	130	2
Health	-		1 100	22	1 100	20
Education	-		870	17	870	16
Employment	-		130	3	130	2
Social conditions	65	11	65	1	130	2
Science and technology	-	-	135	3	135	2.5
Total programmed	610	100	4 990	100	5 600	100

/...

Table 2

Phasing of the country programme

A. Amounts programmed

Year	($'000)
1982	1 010
1983	1 070
1984	1 120
1985	1 170
1986	1 230
Total	5 600

B. Resources taken into account for programming

	($'000)
1. Resources available	
(a) IPF resources	
Third cycle IPF resources	$5 600 a/
Total IPF resources	$5 600
(b) All other resources managed by UNDP	-
2. Provision for adequate programming	-
Total resources taken into account for programming	$5 600

a/ Figure represents 80 per cent of the illustrative IPF.

12. All projects in Agriculture are new and are aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in the production of food. Assistance is requested from UNDP to help in devising an over-all strategy for diversification of agriculture by promoting food crop production; to improve the living conditions of the poorest segment of the rural population through two rural development projects, one of which will take place in the island of Rodriguez. Assistance is also requested for the creation of a National Fishing Company.

13. In the Health sector also all projects are new. Mauritius still lacks many facilities and services to ensure an adequate cover of health needs of the population. Assistance requested covers medical and paramedical staff training, assistance to the Central Water Authority, and improvement of severage services.

14. All projects in Education also are new. They concern primary teacher training and curriculum development, design of Form III examination, strengthening of pre-primary education, and the establishment of Mauritius Education Broadcasting Authority.

15. In the sector of Transport and communications UNDP continuing support is requested for civil aviation training and for telecommunication training. UNDP's involvement is also sought for two new projects: training for the staff of the Mauritius Marine Authority and postal services training.

16. In development planning and administration, assistance needed covers an ongoing project to strengthen the Economic Planning Unit in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and a new project in public sector management training.

17. The other proposed assistance deal with energy planning and development, assistance to the Mauritius Standards Bureau, the establishment of an Industrial Co-ordination Unit and of a Freight Study Unit in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the strengthening of the tourism and handicrafts industry, the strengthening of the export promotion services, the establishment of an export credit guarantee scheme, assistance to the meteorological services and to human settlement programmes, workers' education and productivity improvement, rehabilitation of disabled, and vocational training in prisons.

18. Very few of the projects in the country programme are large scale. Only three projects can be considered as large scale. One is in Agriculture: an umbrella project for the agricultural diversification programme. Another one is in the Health Sector. It involves a feasibility study on the improvement of severage facilities. The third one concerns the setting up of a primary teacher training and curriculum development scheme.

IV. Special development problems and needs of Mauritius

19. Mauritius' economy is highly vulnerable because it is entirely dependent on one commodity: sugar, which in turn is particularly dependent on the

prevailing weather conditions that periodically hit the island with devastating force. Thus in 1979/80, the estimated sugar crop was in the vicinity of 700,000 tons; four cyclones later, the actual crop was 475,000 tons.

Mauritius also depends on two other industries: (a) tourism and (b) a well-organized Export Promotion Zone (EPZ). But again, with the cyclones and the geographical isolation of the country, the success of these industries is somewhat hazardous.

V. Recommendations of the Administrator

20. In the light of the foregoing, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the proposed country programme for Mauritius for the duration of its programme period within the limits of its Indicative Planning Figure for 1982-1986, taking into account the over-expenditure or under-expenditure of its 1977-1981 Indicative Planning Figure; and

(b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outline of the country programme while ensuring, in accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session (E/5543/Rev.1, para. 31) that the expenditures are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant IPF and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time.